

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/720,387

Examiner

Carlos Amaya

Applicant(s)

MINOWA, MANABU

Art Unit

2836

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendments filed on 10/24/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings were received on 10/24/2006. These drawings are accepted.

Reasons for allowance

1. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claims 1-2 are allowable over the prior art of record, because the prior art of record does not disclose that "a 3-state buffer which is driven by a second power voltage that is supplied from the power unit of said second apparatus and in which an output of a signal that is supplied from said second apparatus is controlled by an electric potential at said power node; and an analog switch which is driven by said second power voltage and in which a connection between an output side of said 3-state buffer and a logic circuit in said first apparatus is controlled by the electric potential at said power node". Along with the rest of the claim.

Claim 3 is allowable over the prior art of record, because the prior art of record does not disclose that "a 3-state buffer which is driven by a second power voltage that is supplied from the power unit of said second apparatus, which controls a signal that is supplied from said second apparatus in accordance with a control voltage that is applied to a control terminal thereof, and which supplies said signal to a logic circuit in said first circuit; and an analog switch which is driven by said second power voltage and in which a connection between said power node and the control terminal of said 3-state buffer is

controlled by said control signal to provide the control voltage". Along with the rest of the claim

Claim 4 is allowable over the prior art of record, because the prior art of record does not disclose that " the 3-state buffer has a driving terminal that receives the power voltage from the second circuit as a driving voltage, and a control terminal that receives the power voltage from the first circuit as a control voltage; and an analog switch that prevents current produced by a potential difference between the driving voltage and control voltage from flowing to the protective diode, by cutting off sending of the data from a data output terminal of the 3-state buffer to the data input terminal of the first circuit when supply of the power voltage from the first power unit is terminated". Along with the rest of the claim

Conclusion

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Yamamot (US 4,608,504) discloses an interface circuit for an information-processing device, consisting of a plurality of tri-state buffers and a plurality of units with respective power supplies.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carlos Amaya whose telephone number is (571) 272-8941. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on (571) 272-2800. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CA



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